

**House Resolution**

**No. 86**

**Introduced by Assembly Members Hertzberg and Baugh**

August 18, 2000

House Resolution No. 86—Relative to commending the Honorable Thomas “Rico” Oller.

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Thomas “Rico” Oller, who  
2 has represented the 4th Assembly District for the past  
3 four years, has announced his retirement as an Assembly  
4 Member, and it is appropriate at this time to highlight his  
5 many achievements and to commend him for his  
6 illustrious record of service to the State of California; and

7 WHEREAS, In November 1996 Rico Oller won election  
8 to the California State Assembly representing the  
9 expansive 4th District, which covers the counties of  
10 Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Mono, and Placer,  
11 and during his tenure in the California Legislature, he has  
12 been an outspoken advocate of reducing taxes, protecting  
13 private property rights, and upholding the Second  
14 Amendment; and

15 WHEREAS, During his tenure in the California  
16 Legislature, Assembly Member Oller has served as Vice  
17 Chair of the Insurance Committee, Natural Resources  
18 Committee, and Labor and Employment Committee and  
19 as a member of the Banking and Finance Committee,  
20 Public Safety, Transportation Committee, Water, Parks  
21 and Wildlife Committee, Select Committee on Rural

1 Economic Development, and Select Committee on  
2 California Wine; and

3 WHEREAS, In December 1997 Assembly Member  
4 Oller was the only member of the Assembly to publicly  
5 protest against and refuse to accept a legislative salary  
6 increase, and in March 1998 he again refused to accept  
7 another pay raise for legislators; and

8 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 560 (1999), which was his  
9 legislation, will allow the state to actively protect the  
10 Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep from extinction, and this  
11 was the only measure requiring a  $\frac{4}{5}$  approval by each  
12 house which became law this session; and

13 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Oller has supported  
14 issues important to his constituents, particularly those  
15 dealing with public safety such as Assembly Bill 850, the  
16 Permanent Amusement Ride Safety Inspection Program;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, His philosophy of public service, as  
19 summed up in his own words: “Leadership means doing  
20 what’s right, not what is politically convenient.”; and

21 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Oller, who is well  
22 known as a friendly and personable legislator, has  
23 reached across the aisle to form alliances and friendships  
24 with other legislators regardless of political party or  
25 ideology; and

26 WHEREAS, Despite undergoing angio-plasty in 1997  
27 and a four-way bypass in 1998, Assembly Member Oller  
28 maintained one of the top voting and attendance records  
29 during the 1997–98 and 1999–00 sessions; and

30 WHEREAS, He has received numerous awards,  
31 commendations, and letters of appreciation for his strong  
32 representation of rural Californians, law enforcement,  
33 crime victims, small business owners and employees, local  
34 government, and taxpayers; and

35 WHEREAS, In recognition of his hard work and  
36 numerous accomplishments, the Women’s Safety  
37 Alliance commended Assembly Member Oller in 1997 for  
38 his “support and dedication towards advancing the safety  
39 of California women and families;” the California Small  
40 Business Association named him as the “Small Business

1 Assembly Legislator of 1999;” and the American  
2 Electronics Association designated him as a “High-Tech  
3 Legislator of the Year for 2000”; and

4 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Oller has been active  
5 in his community through his service as Chairman of the  
6 Turner Park Committee, Chairman of the Board of  
7 Trustees of Community Covenant Church, Executive  
8 Board Member of the Progressive Club of San Andreas,  
9 member of the Calaveras County Chamber of  
10 Commerce, San Andreas Community Covenant Church,  
11 and Calaveras County Fish and Game Commission, and  
12 sponsor of the 1990 Match-2 Prisoner Outreach; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1981 he began a successful business in  
14 the building industry, Material Ventures, Incorporated;  
15 he is chairman of the board of his company and employs  
16 more than 30 people with locations in San Andreas,  
17 Merced, and Placerville, and he is a classic entrepreneur  
18 who has been instrumental in helping many others start  
19 their own businesses; and

20 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Oller was born in  
21 Fresno and moved with his family to Jamestown when he  
22 was eight years of age, and he graduated from Sonora  
23 High School in 1976 before graduating with a bachelor’s  
24 degree, magna cum laude, in philosophy from California  
25 State University, Stanislaus, in 1980; and

26 WHEREAS, Rico and his wife of 21 years, Londa, are  
27 the parents of four children, William, Jeffrey, Rachael,  
28 and Spencer, and they live in San Andreas; and

29 WHEREAS, Through his professional, public, and  
30 community activities, Thomas ‘Rico’ Oller has made a  
31 significant impact on the people of the 4th Assembly  
32 District and throughout the state, and he will be sorely  
33 missed by those individuals with whom he has been  
34 associated; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California,*  
36 That the Honorable Thomas “Rico” Oller be honored for  
37 his outstanding service to the people of the 4th Assembly  
38 District and the people of California during his tenure as  
39 a Member of the California Assembly, and extended

1 heartiest best wishes for happiness and success in his  
2 future endeavors; and be it further  
3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
4 transmit a suitably prepared copy of this resolution to the  
5 Honorable Thomas “Rico” Oller.

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